

Most Holy Trinity Roman Catholic Church

1050 Porter

Local	✓	1/13/84
State	✓	10/27/84
State Marker		
National		



Most Holy Trinity

Historic overview:

Most Holy Trinity is historically significant as the focus of the Irish Catholic community on the west side of Detroit and the first English-speaking Catholic parish in the city. In 1833, English-speaking Catholics gained approval to establish their own parish, and soon after a lot was purchased. The task of finding a suitable building was made easier when the old First Protestant Society Church became available. The wooden church was put on rollers and moved to the site at the corner of Cadillac Square and Bates. While the building was in the process of being fitted for Most Holy Trinity, a cholera epidemic hit the city. Approximately 700 victims in two months were taken in two months. The church was transformed into a hospital, as there was not one in the city.

The church was dedicated in 1835. The construction of SS. Peter and Paul Cathedral was supposed to replace Holy Trinity as the English-speaking parish, due to Holy Trinity's limited size. However, the influx of the Irish made it necessary to retain Holy Trinity, and the building was moved to Sixth and Porter in 1849. A few years later it was replaced by the present church, which was dedicated in 1866.

Father Bleydenbergh, a scholar and inventor, was pastor from 1869-1884. He is credited with one of the earliest working electric lights to appear in Michigan in 1875. It is uncertain whether this was one of his own products, although in the early 1880s his inventions did light the midnight mass scene.

Although the Irish population in Corktown dwindled through the 20th century, Holy Trinity remained the center of Irish culture in the city. By the 1950s the church was the largest Latino parish in the city. Today, Holy Trinity is still an integral part of Corktown, and the Irish heritage of Detroit.

